

4019 THE 3<sup>d</sup> / No 3  
**TESTIMONY**

*put to the*  
Of that Dear and Faithful Man, [w<sup>96</sup>]  
**JOHN MATER**

Who had Lived Six Years and Faithful-  
ly served the Lord in his Vocation in the  
Family of C. T. now Dwelling at  
*Edmonton in Middlesex.*

A L S O,

Other Blessed Testimonies concerning  
Him, and the T R U T H it self;

With something concerning his Blessed  
Condition in the time of his Sicknes, and  
when He was near his Departure.

W I T H

Several Testimonies of Sensible Children  
who had been under His Tuition.

*Published that God may have his Glory in Pre-  
serving his Faithful ones Faithful to the end. A. P.*

L O N D O N,

Printed, and are to be sold by Ben. Clark  
in George-Yard in Lombard-street. 1680.

# THE TESTIMONY

OF THAT DEAR AND FAITHFUL MAN  
JOHN MATHER

Who had Lived six Years and Faithful-  
ly served the Lord in his Vocation in the  
Family of C. T. now Dwelling in  
Edmonton in Middlesex.

Other Blessed Testimonies concerning  
Him, and the Truth it self;

With something concerning his Blessed  
Condition in the midst of his sickness, and  
when He was near his Departure.

WITH  
Several Testimonies of sensible Children  
who had been under His Tutorship.

Witnessed that God may have his Glory in Part  
by the Faithful and Righteousness of the said A. M.

LONDON  
Printed, and are to be sold by Ben. Clark  
in Great-Britain in Lombard-street, 1660.

## READER

**D**ear Friends, to whose Hands these following Testimonies may come, here you may see the wonderful dealings of the Lord God, whose faithfulness fails neither Young nor Old, who Travails in their measures for the prosperity of his blessed Truth, both in their own particulars, and that the Increase thereof may be great in the Earth. These Testimonies both of that faithful Servant of the Lord J. M. as also of others who are considerable members of this Family, together with the sensible Childrens Testimonies concerning the aforesaid Man; We thought good to Publish, that the Goodness, Mercy, and Loving Kindness of our tender and Compassionate Father, may be Proclaimed in the Ears of many, that through the Travelling Birth in others, who at any time may have the occasion to peruse them, there may Praises ascend even on this account to the God of Heaven; this I believe will be the Effect, that they will have in the Hearts of all Zions Favourites. And not only so, but the Love of God constrains us to send them abroad, as so many Messages and Invitations to others, who may have been under the profession of Truth for some time, and yet Strangers to the Life and efficacy thereof, as to leaven their Hearts and Souls, with it's Savoury and Soul refreshing vertue; that they may be awakened and alarmed to bestir themselves, to make their Calling and Election sure;

## TO the READER.

while it is called to Day; as the afore-mentioned Deceased Person had done. There are Subjoyned some Testimonies, of the more serious and sensible Children, concerning their Deceased Guardian, which I know will be Servicable where they come, especially amongst young ones, and may also be of some use to some Teachers and Instructors of Children. The unprejudiced and Impartial Reader may feel and savour the Power of Truth, even in these Childrens Testimonies, who are but young in Years, neither can it be in any probable manner supposed, that they could frame such things by their own acquired Abilities, but must with me confess that it is the Lords work; and who can stop it, or who can shut when the Lord opens; and how can we sit silent, and not invite others to come and share with us of that Heavenly Food the Father is pleased to hand forth unto us, and that in a plentiful manner, for which I render and return, the Praise the Honour, and the Renown of all, unto Him who is Worthy, God Blessed for ever. Amen.

A. PATERSON.

THE



**TESTIMONY**

**I** cannot but Praise and Magnifie the Lord our God, who in the abundance of his Love and tender Mercies, hath oftentimes, (even to this very day) Graciously & Powerfully visited my soul with the Day-spring from on high, and hath livingly Refreshed my Soul, with many others in our Family, who in Sincerity of Heart and Mind, in his Fear and Dread, have quietly and patiently waited for his Loving, Glorious, and Powerful appearance, more than they that watch for the Morning, O how hath he often broken in upon our Hearts, with his Holy, Heavenly, Almighty Power, and hath tendered our Spirits before him, that in the sense of his overcoming, and quickning Power, I have been constrained to Speak forth his praises, even admiring his goodness and mercies unto my Soul, who when I was a Stranger to his Heavenly Truth, going astray like a lost Sheep without a Shepherd, not knowing the way to his Blessed

Fold, and to the Pastures of Life, where he makes his flock to rest at noon, watering and refreshing them with the Water of Life, he was pleased in his everlasting mercy, and endless goodness to follow me, as the good Shepherd seeking that which was lost, and not giving over, till he found me wandering from Mountain to Hill, and from Hill to Mountain, dry, barren and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: Yea, the Lord in his everlasting Love, and tender Bowels of compassion followed me, and found me, revealing himself unto me in my lost and undone State and Condition, not knowing whither to go, or where to rest, till he opened and enlightened the Eyes of my mind, in and through his Heavenly Light, which he commanded to shine out of darkness, by which I came to see and to know myself, and him who I had often pierced with my Sins and Iniquities, unto which the enemy of my Soul did lead me Captive at his will, till the good Shepherd and Bishop of my Soul did unstop my Ear, that I could hear his voice and knockings at the door of my Heart: Yea, in and through his Heavenly Almighty Power begot in me a willingness to forsake the Evil of my wayes, and to deny my former Teachers and Leaders that caused me to Ene from his Holy Heavenly word of Truth, which was, and is might in the Heart, and in the Mouth, and directed me to outward things, seeking the Kingdom of God and his Righteousness, which was so he revealed within, not in outward observances and ceremonies

eyes, one crying, lo here, the other do there, leading  
 away from the Principle of Life and Truth in the  
 inward parts; by which my Soul should have been  
 quickened and made alive unto God. Therefore it  
 came to pass, that even in the first observation  
 of such things as I was directed unto, having a zeal  
 for God, but not according to the knowledge of  
 God, that I myself also directed others to the same,  
 when according to the wisdom of Man, and ac-  
 quired natural Learning in Colledge, where I was  
 bred up; I had got Learning, intending to be a  
 Priest, a guide for the Blind, a light to them which  
 are in Darkness, an Instructor of the Foolish, a  
 Teacher of Babes, as having got the form of the  
 letter knowledge, but destitute of the Power, Life,  
 and Spirit, without which I my self was Blind and  
 Foolish, Dead in Sins and Trespases, till it pleased  
 the Lord to reveal his Son in me, in his Holy, pure  
 and Heavenly Light, by which I came to see out of  
 Obscurity and Darkness, which was in my Heart;  
 and the vail of Iniquity which was over my Mind  
 came to be rent by his Almighty Power, that so I  
 came to behold him whom my Soul overthrew not afar  
 off, but nigh in me, in and through his Holy, Hea-  
 venly, Quickning Spirit, by which my Soul was  
 quickened and turned from Darkness to Light, and  
 from Satan's Power to his pure and Holy Power,  
 Grace and Truth in my inward parts, in and  
 through which he taught, and enabled me to  
 deny Ungodliness and worldly Lusts, and to  
 live Soberly, Righteously and Godly in this pre-  
 sent

sent Worldly Glory and Honour by in his Name  
for evermore.

Now as the Lord God in his Love and Mercy,  
hath reached unto my Soul and redeemed me out of  
the Hands of my Enemies through the power of his  
Strength, he also made me willing to glory my self  
every way and respect, as to outward Honour and  
Preferment, which I could have enjoyed, if I would  
have conformed my self to their way, and Worship,  
and vain customs and manners, in life and conversa-  
tion: but the fears and dread of the Lord being upon  
my Heart, I could no longer conform my self unto  
them, but I freely gave over my *School-office* and  
employment in Teaching Children, trusting in the  
Lord, he would not leave me and forsake me, if I  
did faithfully follow him in the Regeneration, which  
Work I felt begun upon my Soul in and through  
his Holy Heavenly Spirit of Grace, and Truth ma-  
nifested within me, because of which I counted all  
my former knowledge and Honour as Dung and  
Dross, for the excellency of the Truth and know-  
ledge of my Lord and Saviour *Jesus Christ*, whose  
power I felt Operating in me, to destroy the Works  
of the Devil, to serve him in Holiness and Righte-  
ousness, according to the measure of Grace which  
he had given me, and enabled me withal. And see-  
ing my self with some others, were like a *Pellicane* in  
the *Wilderness*, and as a *Sparrow* alone upon the *Houfe*  
*top*, so joining in *Mesech* and dwelling in the *Tents*  
of *Kedar*, amongst a *crooked* and *perverse* Genera-  
tion, covered with *Grofe* *Darkness*, having the  
peace

peaceable way of the Lord, which according to that  
ability and knowledge I had then in the Lord, I  
made known to them, the Lord raised a desire in  
my Father-in-law, who was a Priest to go out from  
amongst them, and to go to the People of the Lord  
which he had Raised, Gathered, and Chosen for  
himself in *England*, to enjoy his Holy Living  
Powerful presence in their Meetings, and to partake  
of the quickning and refreshing vertue of the Life  
and Love of the Lord in his Light, where the Saints  
Communion stands

And as soon as he made it known to us, his Wife  
and Children, we found the same willingness, and  
freedom also in us to go out from our Fathers House  
and Kindred, not consulting with Flesh and Bloud  
what would become of us: But being freely re-  
signed and given up into the will of the Lord to dis-  
pose of us as he pleased, we chose rather to suffer  
afflictions with the People of God, and to undergo  
all Tryals and Exercises which the Lord might suffer  
to come upon Them and Us, then to enjoy the plea-  
sures of Sin, and Vanities of this World for a Season.

And after we had made known our Desire and  
Intent to some of our Dearest Friends, which se-  
veral times did Write to us on the behalf of Truth,  
and we understood that they were willing to re-  
ceive us in the Love of the Lord, we left all for  
the love of Truth, and went away to save our selves  
from that Perverse Generation; in all our Journey  
the Lord was with us, and brought us safe and well,  
with Joy and Gladness of our Souls, to his Beloved  
People

People here in England, where I now have been these six years employed according to the Lord's, good will and providence amongst tender Children, to instruct them in Languages, and other necessary Sciences appertaining to this outward Life. What troubles and exercises within and without I have met withal, I willingly pass by, as being light and momentary, in comparison of that inward comfort and blessing of my Soul which I have received of the Lord.

For he in his endless Love and Mercy hath bin a very great measure satisfied the Travall of my Soul, and answered the earnest desires and breathing of my Spirit for the Children of our Family, that he in his goodness would be pleased to appear unto their Souls, and to manifest himself in his Holy & everlasting Power, by which they might feel their Hearts melted, tendered, and broken before him, the Almighty God their Creator, to Fear and Dread him in their Youth, that at length that rough and perverse, disobedient and stubborn Spirit, which reigned in some of them, to the grief and sorrow of our Hearts, might be wrought out, and a meek, low, and humble Spirit might be created in them, through the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ, which we also in the Lord's time have seen brought to pass, in and through the Almighty, Heavenly, Blessed appearance, and powerful operation of his Heavenly Spirit in our Family meetings, whereof we have formerly born our Testimony, and do bear the same at this present time, that the Power of the Lord is still felt and experienced



rienced in and amongst us, in our Meetings, to  
 the Glory of that first great and notable day of the  
 Blessed, Glorious, and powerful appearance of the  
 Lord God, in and amongst the little ones of our  
 Family! The Remembrance whereof makes glad  
 my heart, and rejoices my Spirit, blessed be the  
 Name of the Lord forevermore, we cannot be still,  
 but are constrained in his Love, which he hath kindled  
 abroad in our Hearts, by the Holy Spirit, which  
 is given unto us, but speak well of his Name, be-  
 cause of the Saviour of his Life, which we still feel  
 in the midst of us.

For the Lord hath not been with us as a Stranger,  
 that says but for a night, but we can say it of a  
 truth, that he hath hitherto made his abode with  
 us, the blessed effect upon the Hearts and Spirits of  
 many Witnesses confirms it. For instead of the  
 thorn comes up the Vine-tree, and instead of the  
 Prayer comes up the Miracle, in as many as have  
 subjected their Souls unto the power of God, bear-  
 ing Fruits of Sobriety, Righteousness, Meekness  
 and Godliness, in and through the Blessed Opera-  
 tion of his Holy Spirit, which he hath blessedly pou-  
 red forth, and is pouring forth upon them, to the  
 Glory and Honour of his Name, and for an Everlast-  
 ing Sign that shall not be cut off. Now the Lord  
 hath been and is gracious unto our Souls, and in his  
 Grace and Love he daily renews his goodness unto  
 us, manifesting himself in his Love, Life and Power,  
 when we meet together in his Holy, Heavenly  
 Fear, O how doth he shed abroad his Love in our  
 Hearts!

Hearts! O how doth he receive our Spirits, that many times we are even Ravished with his Love, and so filled with his Power, that our Cups are made to overflow with Praises and Thanksgivings unto the Lord.

The desire of my Soules; that I and every one of us, that have tasted of the good Word, and Power of the Word to come, by which we witness, our Hearts, and Minds in some measure changed, into the Holy and Righteous Image of the Son of God, who is the Light and Life of our Souls, may never forget it, nor give him any occasion to Withdraw his Love and Mercy from us, but that his Holy and blessed Work of Regeneration, and Renovation of our minde, as it is begun by his Holy and Glorious Power, it also may be carried on by the same, that daily we may Witness an increase with the increase of the Lord, and a thorough change in our inward Man, from Glory to Glory, as by the Spirit of the Lord, that thus his Praises may be perfected out of the Mouths of Babes and Sucklings, unto which he hath made known himself in his Heavenly Light and Life, Mercy and Power, Grace and Truth, by which many of them are come to know the things of God, and of his Spiritual Kingdom revealed within them, in his Holy power, Righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, which things are hid from the Wise and Prudent of this World, because they hate and despise the Light of Jesus Christ, in and through which alone they should receive the true and Saving Knowledge of God, and his

his Son *Jesus Christ* whom to know is Life Eternal; wherein also the operating virtue of the Living Bloud of the Son of God, is onely effectually felt, and Witnessed, cleansing away all Sin and Iniquity unto the saving of the Soul from the Wrath to come; that so an entrance may be administered unto it abundantly, into the Everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour *Jesus Christ*, wherein the Righteous live with God, in unspeakable Joy and full of Glory.

O that many of the young and tender ones here with us, may be kept in the Life and Virtue, Wisdom and Power of the Lord God, to the confusion of many in their Earthly Wisdom, and the conversion of them, from their Evil wayes, O thou *Shepherd of Israel*, lead them on Gently and Tenderly, and go before them out and in, as a *Shepherd* goes before his Flock, and lead them to the Green Pastures of Life, that Feeding there they may have Light and Life in them, and that, they may have it more abundantly, and by it become an Eternal Excellency to thee, and a Joy of many Generations.

**D** Lord I humbly beseech thee, Bless our Godly undertakings, and indue us with thy Heavenly Wisdom, that we may bring them up in the nurture and admonition of thee! O Bless this Family here, and all the Families of thine inheritance every where, with Heavenly and Spiritual Blessings in thy Son *Christ Jesus*! O Lord keep, keep and preserve me, & every one of us, that have called on the  
the

the sweet Love and Heavenly Power, by which our  
Souls have been reached, convinced and converted,  
faithful unto thy self, keep us always in a living  
sensible of thy manifold mercies and tender Love to  
us, that we may live in thy holy Fear, and never re-  
turn so folly any more, but walk low and humble  
with thee our God, and tender Father in Christ Je-  
sus. O Lord establish our Hearts with thy truth, that  
we may never depart from thee; Season our Souls  
with thy Holy Powerful Word of Grace, that all our  
Words and Works may be Savoury, and good for  
the use of Eternity; Strengthen our inward man with  
might by thy Spirit, that under thy banner of Love  
we may fight the good fight of faith, and keep a good  
Conscience, and finish our course with joy, and receive  
the Crown of Righteousness, which is laid up for all  
them that love thy appearance in thy Heavenly  
Light. O Lord, for all thy goodness and mercies  
and benefits, both Temporal and Spiritual bestow-  
ed upon me and our Family, my Soul praises and  
glorifies, exalts and magnifies thy holy Name,  
Glory and Honour, Wisdom and Power, be unto  
thee, who art God over all, blessed for ever and  
for evermore, Amen.

Edmonton the 24th. of  
the 6 Month 1680.

He died about 7 Days after that he brought in his  
Testimony, and caused it to be read amongst the  
Scholars.

*My most Loving and Endeared Friend and  
 Colleague John Matern, being taken ill of  
 a Feaver the 24th. of the 6 Month 80.  
 was called out of this Life the 1st. day of  
 the 7 Month, a little after the 7 hour, in  
 the Afternoon.*

**T**His is my Testimony and belief concerning him,  
 that he is entred into everlasting favour with  
 the Lord, who in his life-time much regarded the  
 Honour of his Maker, and it was the delight of his  
 Soul to be employed either amongst young or old  
 in his Fathers business; it was his hearts delight  
 and Souls great joy, to have the opportunity to  
 benefit others. He was a Man very much Dead  
 to the World, the sense whereof I felt Livingly  
 upon my Spirit at present, and I hope the com-  
 fortable fellowship and Heart-gladding society, that  
 I have had with him for these three years and more,  
 and that wherein we have mutually enjoyed in one  
 another, shall never be forgotten by me, but shall  
 be matter of Praise and Thanksgiving to the God of  
 true unity, who was pleased to bless us together,  
 and work up our Spirits into an oneness, so that  
 I may truly say, my Dear Friend (to my know-  
 ledge) was never exercised one way or another,  
 with sorrow or grief, but my Soul was engaged to  
 sympathize with him, and to feel the weight of his  
 burthens, and then we both breathed together to  
 the



the God of Grace, whose Mercies are infinite till he in his tender Bowels of compassion was pleased to afford ease and Relief. And as in his Life-time we were Indissolubly knit together in our Spirits, so that at his Death our Loves were not abated, but much more Large then ever.

About Four hours before he departed, we kept our Family Meeting in the room where he Lay, it being his desire, and there Lovingly together, we enjoyed one another in the Lord, to the melting and rendring of (I believe) the hearts of all that were present; And in the time of the Meeting, he was filled with Divine praises and Heavenly Hymns and a Heavenly presence was felt supporting his Spirit all the time of his Sickness, but more especially during the time of the Meeting, so that he was first exercised in Singing Praises to the Lord, and in magnifying his great Power, evidenced in himself, and in this Family; his cries were strong that the Lord might carry on his Blessed work begun in this Family, and he besought the Lord to prosper his truth daily more and more, every where till all were Subjected therunto, which he declared should come to pass, he likewise confessed the many Singular favours he had Partaken of in this Family and as it were with regret bemoaned his absence from it so long, that he should have so long wandered not knowing his place and service in the Body. When the Children were all sitting round about him in the Meeting, his Heart was open, and large towards them, in exhorting and beseeching



of them, to persevere and go on in the name and authority of the mighty God, and that they might be faithful unto him in their measures, and not to despise the day of small things; but as they were faithful in a little, more should be added; his Mouth and Heart was full of Praises to the Highest for many particular mercies, but more especially that he had received the knowledge of the everlasting Truth; and had walked in it for some time perfectly and uprightly, in his measure, for which at that time he declared he had the *Testimony* of a good Conscience, and was entered into *Eternal Peace* with the Lord, which I do firmly believe; and without doubting, am persuaded that it is true; and it is the desire of my Heart, that I may so walk in my Generation, that in the end I may enjoy but such a comfortable Death as he did.

It was as hard a Tryal as ever I met with, I may say, which I desire may be sanctified of the Lord; but now am well satisfied that he is gone into everlasting bliss, to be with the Lord for ever.

And it is the belief of my Heart, that when ever it shall please the Lord to call me out of the body, that as we were lovely together in this Life, that forever we shall be joynd, (as I am preserved faithful,) and that in a more nearness, then could be enjoyed here, we shall sing Praises to God and the Lamb for ever. So in this belief, I rest my self contented with my condition at present.

Edmonton the 2 of the Month, 1680.

B

A. Paterson.  
Dear

**D**ear *John Matern* Died not as a Fool Dieth, that feared not the Living God, but his Heart was bent to seek after a City, whose Builder and Maker is God ; He made his Calling and Election sure, and a good Savour he has left behind him, and his Works follow him ; he was a diligent Man in his Vocation, and very zealous for Gods Glory, his aim was at Eternity, and through the mercy of the Lord he missed not of it ; so that when he lay on his Death-Bed, the Glory of the Lord over-shadowed him, and his Innocent cryes were unto him, that all might be kept faithful that professed his name ; and more particularly, that both small and great in our Family might be preserved to the Lord, and his Heavenly Sounds of Praises to God, with a raised up voice by the Assistance of the Power and Glory of God upon his Spirit.

I believe I shall never forget, me thinks mine Ears are full of them still ; hearing the sound of that Sweet Harmonious melody, with a raised up voice, when otherwise, if Gods power had not enabled him, he confessed he was scarce able to move his Tongue, he gave Heavenly Exhortations to the young ones, to persevere and go on in obedience to the Lord, in that truth they had received ; and encouraged his honest and faithful companion, and assistant to go on in the work of the Lord. I dearly loved him because of his simplicity and lowliness of Mind, his faithfulness and diligence in his place, and because his Heavenly care was intirely to do good ; when I remember his dear simplicity, how like an Innocent Child

Child he was in his place, my Soul breaks within  
me, and I am melted even into great tenderness  
and love unto him, more then can be uttered;  
Tongue cannot utter, nor Pen set down the excel-  
lence and eminency of this love, which is to over-  
comming, he was a very wise and learned man, as  
to outward Learning; but how he denied himself,  
and how humbly he behaved himself, and how free  
he was from priding himself, because of his Great  
parts and natural endowments as a man, I can say  
according to my Judgment he went before many,  
well he is gone, and in the name of the Lord he bles-  
sed the Family he had lived in, and praised God that  
he had placed him in it, such blessed things, he ac-  
knowledged he had been partaker of in it, and after  
he had done his work, he went to his Father, even as  
an Innocent Lamb unconcerned about his Death, as  
fearing it not, but on the contrary praising God, for  
the certain trust he had in his Power, telling us how  
certain he was of Eternal Salvation, the Glory  
of the Lords power rested upon his Spirit, and  
sweetly did he give up the Ghost.

O blessed, art thou my dear companion, my Soul  
loved thee, and embraced thee, and I love thee still,  
and my life is with us, I pray God as that sin-  
cerity that was in thee, may remain in Thousands,  
yea Ten Thousands, that Gods Host in this day may  
be innumerable, Amen.

God is with us, and we know though we may be  
taken out of this Life according to his pleasure, yet  
his Truth and Faithfulness, departs not from the

Families of his faithful ones, who can truly say, they seek his sweet Face and countenance, and Glory in all things; and we can say that the secret hand of the Lord, works not against us, but for us. Oh! my Soul be glad in the God of thy Mercies, everlasting praises be to thy name for evermore.

Edmonton the 8th. of the  
7th. Month. 1680.

C. T.

**D**EAR Friends and Children, but especially you Children of this Family; it is upon me to relate something unto you of my exercise, which I have gone through since the Lord did put it into our Hearts, to take upon us the exercise of Educating of Children; and indeed the very first step into it was with fear and trembling, but though I was very tender, the Lord hath called me to a blessed Work, and had blessedly assisted us by his mighty power and out-stretched Arm to this very day. O the days of Sighing and Mourning that I have gone through amongst disorderly Servants and Children, that sometimes I did not well know how it was with me, or whether I went backwards or forwards in my condition. O the Travel the Travel that was in my way to Zion, that indeed some times I was almost ready to despair; but it did please the Lord sometimes, to arise in his mighty power to strengthen, and encourage, and uphold me in his blessed work, and when his Glorious Light shone round about me, I girt up the Loins of my mind; and when

encouraged to walk in his way, and then I thought I should run swiftly; when Exercises came again, and when the Fogs and Mists did arise again, and the Sun was Darkened again that I could not see which way to go; then did I crie unto the Lord, that he would be pleased to keep me in the measure of his blessed Truth, for I said in my Heart, that it should be my resolution, that I would never turn back again to folly, Thus I passed on through much Difficulty, and the Lord did mightily uphold me, but sometimes I knew it not; and indeed when I have beheld others Eating of the Dainties of Gods House, I have been ready to murmur, and say, O Lord why do I fare so hardly, my meat being bitter Herbs, and of an unfavoury taste; Thus I Travelled in Sorrow, through a long Winter, and in the Lords blessed time, he was pleased to arise with healing under his Wings, and did scatter the Clouds, by his mighty Power, and out-stretched Arm, and what we have been Travelling and Labouring for amongst Children; we have seen a blessed increase, and I can truly say it is Gods Heavenly Interest; Praised be to his name for evermore.

For he hath made his work pleasurable, easy, and delightful unto us, for his arm is about us day and night, and his Sun is arisen upon us, and our days are very sweet unto us, and we can look back upon our exercises and dark places, where we have stuck and behold them with delight, for the Lord hath been, and is abundantly kind unto us, praises be to his name for ever more.



O a blessed time, and happy it is for all them that fear the Lord, for thou O Lord hast made our days sweet, and thy blessed work easy unto us, for we can sing of thy mercies all the day long, and behold the work of thy own right hand to prosper, and the fruits of our Labours to flourish as a Rose, and we can glory in thee for evermore; and when the work of our day is pleasantly spent, in the fear of the Lord at evening tide, when *Shiloh's Brook runs softly*, as it is in our wonted practice, we do assemble together before the Lord, with our Family and Children, to magnifie his power, and Speak well of his name, and to crave a blessing upon us, and his tender Plants, and then he ariseth in his mighty power, and his bedewings descend, and his sancts drops from Heaven, and over-comes our hearts, and enliveneth our Souls and Bodies, that every member may magnifie his Holy Name; O blessed day indeed, can we desire more then we have, or ask more then we receive, Oh! no, no, the Lord hath been abundantly kind, and hath filled our hearts with his Heavenly Treasure; for now we can gather Grapes off our own Vines, and they are Pleasant to our taste, O what shall we render unto thee O Lord, for thou art worthy of all Honour and Praise, and with all that we have and are; We give the Glory unto thee for ever and evermore.

Now I have a *Testimony* lives in my Heart, for dear *John Matern* whom the Lord hath taken away, a dear Man indeed, one that truly feared the Lord,

and



and was a faithful Steward; and when he came to lie upon his Death Bed, he had Reaped an hundred fold, and he brought in his increase with much rejoycing into the store-house of the Lord, yea with great joy and reioycing, for the Lord imbraced him, and kissed him with his lips, this was the last day of his appointed time, and I myself was pretty much with him, he was a weak man as he confessed, and scarce able to stir his Tongue, but the Glory of the Lord shone round about him, and did raise up his pure life, that he lay praising the Lord, and the harmony of Heaven was in his Mouth, that his weakness was pressed down, and the sting of Death not regarded; we had a sweet meeting with him, as other Testimonies will further relate, with many of the Children, and a part of the Family, so when he found himself almost spent with the blessed Exercise that was upon him, he held up his hands, and we caused them to depart the Room, so then he lay still and Slumbered a little time; and when he stirred I went to him, he desired me not to speak, except to praise and magnifie the Lord; but I asked him if he knew me, and he smiled upon me, & said yea; and I said thou lyest sweetly; he again answered yea, as I remember these were the last words he Spake, for he lay a little time, and went sweetly away.

Frances Taylor.

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My

**My Testimony Concerning my lately deceased Master John Matern.**

**H**E was a man that truly feared the Lord, and was an instrument in his hand in his day, for the help of others. He laboured daily for us his Scholars, both for our Souls and Bodies; he taught us with diligence, that we might not frustrate the intent of our coming to the School, as to our learning, and prayed continually to the Lord, that we might be Edified as to our inward condition.

O what a blessed end he made!

O he was full of Praises and Songs of joy to the Lord. And I am satisfied, that his reward was the greater, for his labour and prayers for us, he is with the Lord, and blessed of him for ever.

*William Penington,*

*The 10th. of the 7th.*

*Month, 1680.*

*15 years old.*

**My Testimony concerning my dear Master John Matern, is as followeth.**

**H**E was a just and an upright man in his generation, fearing God and hating evil; he cherished the good, and punished the evil in whomsoever of his Schollars he found it, without respect of

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Persons, which caused him on his death-bed to en-  
joy peace unutterable.

He hath fought the good fight of faith, and kept  
his Garments clean from the spots of this World, &  
is entered into rest and joy with his maker for ever,  
which no man can deprive him of.

Edward Penington.

13 years old

*This Testimony do I bear for my Teacher*  
**John Matern.**

**T**HAT he was a just and an upright man, one that  
feared God and eschewed evil, in his day, and  
generation, and the Lord was with him in his do-  
ings, and he did that which was right in the sight of  
the Lord, and the Lord supported him, and carried  
him through all Tryals, and he had done the Lord's  
work faithfully in his day and age, and now he is  
come to his rest prepared for him in Jesus Christ, he  
hath been laying up a treasure, and now he enjoys it,  
he hath heard the joyfull sentence, well done thou good  
and faithful Servant, thou hast been faithful in a few  
things, I will make thee Ruler over many things, and  
thou shalt enjoy the joy of the Lord. So now he is entered into glory  
with his Lord, and is happy for ever, and magnified be  
Gods name for redeeming him out of the Lawes of Sin  
and Death, and I will at any time take such an end as goodly,  
then

then will they be blessed of the Lord to all eternity,  
world without end.

*John Crouch,*  
*about the age of 12 years.*

*I have a Testimony concerning my dear  
School-master John Matern, Who is de-  
parted out of this Life, and lives with God  
for evermore.*

**O**H he was a blessed Man, one that I believe in  
his measure feared God and eschewed evil; as  
Job did, Oh he was a good Man, I believe the fear  
of the Lord was always before his Eyes; Oh I can  
say he is in Heaven with the Lord, Oh he is in a  
better place then we are yet in, for he is with God  
the Father, where the fulness of all joy and comfort  
is; Oh that we may all be as faithful to the Lord in  
our places as he was, and then God will gather us  
to himself, and then we shall be blessed of him and  
receive the sentence; *Well done thou good and faith-  
ful Servant, thou hast been faithful in a few things,  
I will make thee ruler over many things, enter thou into  
the joy of the Lord,* Oh it is a blessed sentence to all  
them that receive it, as he hath; Oh how sorry he  
used to be if he saw any of us do amiss, I can say he  
would very much grieve him, but when he saw any  
of us do well; Oh he would be glad, and encourage  
us to go on in the way of the Lord, so I cannot but

then

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give him the Glory, the Honour, and the Praise  
both now for ever and evermore

*Ezekiel Worley, Jun.*

*11 years old*

*This I have to Speak to the Praise of the Lord  
God and his Truth, as concerning our dear  
Teacher John Matern.*

**H**E was a man that feared the Lord and walked  
in his path, and I can truly say the Lord was  
with him, and the last day that he lived, he lived  
in the praise of his name, and it was his endeavour  
and intent as long as he lived, to fear the Lord his  
fearmaker, and the name of the Lord was praised by  
him, as long as he breathed in this World.

O that all People would arise for the name of the  
Lord, that none may sick in the deep pit of Dark-  
ness, but that they may come and fear the Lord,  
that none may stay behind, but come on with the  
Lord's people, and walk on hand in hand with them,  
and so press forward to the mark *Christ Jesus*, as  
this man did, who is gone to his rest in peace.

O Lord it hath pleased thee to take away one of  
thy Servants who served thee in uprightness of  
heart, O Lord I humbly pray thee carry on thy ble-  
ssed work in the heart of thy Children, thy presence  
is with us at this time, and Oh pluck up the root  
of iniquity, and throw down the great Tree of  
Wickedness, that is growing in the hearts of People,  
that

that thy work may prosper, and the light of thy countenance may shine through the Nations.

Oh raise up yet more Witnesses for thy self; that all may fall down before thee, and magnifie thy name who art God over all blessed for evermore.

*William Looftvelt  
12 years old.*

**O** Lord thy love is unspeakable, when thou scatterest the Clouds and makest the Rain descend as upon the tender grafs; and visitest us with the day Spring from on high; then are we constrained to praise thy name; O thou retirest from time to time, for we have none in Heaven but thee, nor in the Earth in comparison of thee; O we have fresh encouragement to follow hard after thee; O thou hast often broken our hearts before thee the living God, and hast caused abundance of melting tears and Soul-ravishing gladness among us, and a remnant can say that one day in thy Court is better then a thousand elsewhere, and it is better to be a door-keeper in thy house, then to dwell in the Tents of Wickedness; Oh Lord what shall we say unto thee, or what shall we render unto thee for thy mercyes; for thy Arm of power hath been about us to this very day.

Thy Hand is not slackened, nor thy Ear dull to hear the Sighing of the needy, thou lookest down upon them with an Eye of pity and compassion, and



thy love is the same that ever it was unto thy Children, and thy all-seeing Eye is every where, and in every place to watch over them, who art the watchman of Israel; who never slumbers nor sleepest, but feedest thy sheep, and makest them to lye down in the green pastures of Life. O that when we depart out of this world, we may lay down our head in peace with thee, as the blessed man *John Matern* hath done who is deceased: Oh he is gone to his resting place, who was faithful to the end of his dayes; and when he had finished his course in this world, the Lord took him into himself, Oh how pleasantly he lay upon his Bed, praising the Lord whom he served in his life time, he made his Calling and Election sure, and is at rest with the Lord his maker, who laboured for our good every way, and is gone to a very pleasant habitation, where he will have joy for ever.

*Mary Taylor*  
to *Jearhold*

*This is my Testimony concerning my Dear Teacher John Matern.*

**T**Hat he was a man that feared God, with the uprightness of his heart, and his greatest Travel was to do the will of God, making it manifest amongst us, and telling us what the Lord would have us to do, and exhorting us to leave off the evil of our doings & to follow the Lord & to fear him, and it was his

his greatest joy if he saw any of us bring forth a Testimony for the Lord, & how would it refresh him, yea that he could not forbear but must praise the Lord before he went out of the Meeting, and if there were any that did grieve the Lord Spirits, and Rebel against him, then he would be so grieved and troubled, that he could scarce take his rest upon his Bed; I can truly say that he was a man that sought the well-fare of our Souls and Bodies too, and he taught us with all the might he had, and that faithfully, and if he found out a nearer way, he told us, and if there be any that have not improved their time, I can truly say that the fault is theirs, and not his, for he did as much as he could for us, and when he was upon his Death bed, he exhorted us to fear God, and he Praised and Glorified the God of Heaven, unto the last breath that he sent in this world, so that the Lord hath taken this good man out of this world, and he is gone to his rest in peace, with the Lord Jesus Christ, where is joy for ever and evermore

This is my Testimony concerning my Dear  
 Thomas Green.  
 16 years old.

That he was a man that feared God, with the uprights of his heart, and his greatest Travel was to do the will of God, making it manifest amongst us, and telling us what the Lord would have us to do, and exhorting us to leave off the evil of our ways & to follow the Lord & to fear him, and in his

*This day the Spirit of the Lord giveth me  
utterance that I can bear a Testimony  
for my deceased Teacher John Matern.*

**T**His I can say of a truth, he was an upright man  
in his generation, serving God with his whole  
heart, he had a very great care that he might teach  
faithfully, that so he might not bring any guilt upon  
his conscience; and moreover he had a great Travel in  
the Lord for us, who were under his tuition, that  
we who felt the Power of God in us, and had  
in some measure regenerated and changed us, that  
we might walk uprightly and according to the truth,  
he also had a Travel for them that had not felt the  
Power of God to change them, but were yet in re-  
bellion against God's Spirit, that they might come to  
feel themselves in some measure changed, and his  
Travel was great for the prosperity of truth every  
where (and we whom he taught find a great want  
of him, but the Lord supplyeth it;) and this can I  
say for him, that the very same day about four hours  
before he Dyed, we had a meeting with him, where  
he being raised up by the Power of God, (though  
very weak in body, but of Perfect understanding)  
he exhorted us even with a mighty Power that most,  
(I believe I may say all,) were broken, and rendered  
before the Lord; and all the while I was with him  
he did Sing Heavenly Praises unto the Lord, in the  
inward man; and dyed in the Faith of Christ Jesus

the Son of God, and then his Soul ascended up to the  
 God of Heaven, and now he enjoys pleasures with-  
 out end, and at this time considering the manner of  
 his Death, my Soul cannot but render to the God  
 of Heaven, Glory and Dominion for ever. Amen.  
 The 13th. of the 7th. Month 1680. Philip Dymond.

*A Testimony concerning my late Deceased  
 Master John Matern.*

**H**E was a man that feared the Lord, and was  
 very serviceable in his place, and I can truly  
 say he was a fit Instrument in the hand of the  
 Lord, and taught us his Scholars with all the dili-  
 gence as could well be expected. In his life time he  
 laboured through hardships that we might be con-  
 verted to the faith, as well as in other things, and  
 believe he died in the Lord, and his reward for  
 love him, for assuredly the Lord did bless him, and  
 will bless all others that lived as he did.

Oh that we may all walk as he did, in the way  
 of Christ, and follow his steps for ever. I can  
 wish many more of my School-fellows that we never  
 defied a better Tutor than he was. When I hear  
 he lay upon his Sock, many times I have cried  
 the Lord in my heart to raise him up again, but  
 hath been the will of the Lord to take him away  
 and now he is at peace to all eternity.

*John Worley.*

(68)

*This is my Testimony concerning our Dear  
Teacher John Matern, who is lately depar-  
ted out of this Earthly Tabernacle.*

**T**hat he was a righteous Man, walking upright-  
ly with the Lord his Maker and Creator; he  
was a man with whom the Lord was, both in his  
goings out, and commings in; this can I truly say  
in living experience: He was an adversary to all  
manner of evil, but he cherished the good as the  
apple of his Eye; wherefore I am sensible that he is  
departed in peace, and though I was not here at  
the day of his death, yet my Soul was sensible of  
the goodness of the Lord towards him on his Death-  
Bed; as praising and magnifying the name of the  
Lord; and now I am sensible he is at rest and peace  
with the Lord his Maker and Creator, in that desi-  
red Heaven, wherein never any unclean can ever  
enter.

This was the Lord pleased to put in my heart  
to Write concerning our dear and well beloved  
Teacher, who is departed, and entered into the  
blessed rest with the God of our Fathers, *Abra-  
ham, Isaac, and Jacob*, world without end.

*John Buseber.*

*14 years old.*



*I have this to say for my Dear Teacher John Matern.*

**H**E was one that lived in the fear of the Lord; and when he lay upon his Death-Bed, he Glorified the Lord, and made a sweet melody in his Soul; and at the present time we had a blessed Meeting, and the presence of the Lord was amongst us, and he also pleased the Lord, and made a happy end, for surely he made a Covenant with the Lord, and I am sure he was filled with the presence of the Lord; Oh, he was a blessed man indeed, he had made it manifest, for in his life-time it was his greatest joy to see any of his *Scholars* grow up in the fear of the Lord; and if at any time he saw the enemy to prevail over any, he would with grief of heart admonish them to return, and repent, that they might find mercy with the Lord, and beseech them to have a care lest the Enemy should prevail again, he also was greatly exercised, if any of his *Scholars* did not mind their business and Learning, as to the outward, and would encourage them that minded the same, assuredly he Preached Righteousness in his life and conversation, assuredly he hath made his calling & election sure, & now he is at rest with the Lord, for he hath left a good Savour behind him, and the remembrance of him is blessed, he is gone to the Lord, and is at peace with him, for ever and evermore.

*Margaret Rouse 12 years old.*

*This*

*This I have to say for my dear Teacher  
John Matern.*

**T**hat he was an upright true honest man, one that feared God and eschewed Evil, one that laboured for the good of the Souls of them that he taught, he taught them inward as well as outward knowledge; he was a man that spent himself much for the Lord, he was a true labourer in the Lord, and one that Preached his Holy name unto us, and made it known, but now he is gone out of this Body of Fleth; O he hath laid down his Head in Peace with the Lord, and is at rest with the highest in the Holy Jerusalem, the City of the everlasting God. I can truly say that he hath been much troubled when any of the Boyes had been disorderly, and he would often exhort them to fear the Lord. O he was a Man that spent himself much for us, but now he is repayed for it; he would often cry unto the Lord for us, that we might all fear the Lord, from the least to the greatest, and the last day he lived he praised the Lord; and we had a Meeting in his Chamber which he desired, and he did exhort us, and pray the Lord for us.

He was a righteous man, the Lord hath blessed him, blessed be his name for it. O how he would fight against the Devil, to the praise of the Lord, and honour of his name, in whom he trusted and had his life and being.

*Thomas Munson 14 years old.*

*I have a few Lines to Write concerning my  
Dear Husband.*

**H**E was an upright hearted man in his doings, he served the Lord with all his Heart, and was faithful in his place to every one that he was concerned with, to do them good, and it was his greatest delight to see truth prosper, especially amongst the young ones, with whom he was concerned, it was his greatest joy and satisfaction to see the Lords power breaking in upon them, so that he could not but Praise and Glorifie the Lord many a time for it, often upon his very Death-Bed he lay praising and glorifying of the Lord for his great mercies bestowed upon him.

And although I lost a dear and tender Husband, who was very dear to, and tender over me, yet (being in the Lords will,) I am content with the will of God, being also that he now reaps the reward, which many a time he travelled for; and in forsaking his country, and his Fathers house, to come amongst a people that served the Lord with uprightness of heart, he had his desire answered, and what great joy and peace he departed this Life, and is gone into everlasting happiness, to be with the Lord for ever and evermore.

*Rosina Matern.*

THE END.

